



HDRUK
Health Data Research UK



Public note of Population Research UK Programme Board meeting

3 March 2021

The Population Research UK (PRUK) Programme Board, which has membership from the PRUK funders (ESRC, MRC, Wellcome), HDR UK, and the Chair of the Partnership Group, met on 3 March 2021. This was the third meeting of the PRUK Programme Board.

Activity update in the PRUK development programme

HDR UK have completed approximately 40 interviews so far with LPS stakeholders covering data users and LPS studies, with a further 25 interviews scheduled. An online survey would be made live on 5/3/21 and will remain open until 9 April (Link: [Population Research UK design and dialogue survey](#))

HDR UK reported they had presented the concept of PRUK to the HDR UK Public Advisory Board, who provided informative feedback about describing public benefit. The next step of the public and participant workstream is to complete a scoping exercise of key reports addressed public engagement in data sharing and longitudinal research.

HDR UK set out a timeline for the development programme, which involved the publication of a Green Paper consultation for PRUK in June 2021. The Green Paper would set out interim recommendations and options for PRUK and invite feedback from the LPS community. HDR UK would make final recommendations on PRUK to the research funders in September 2021, which would then be considered and taken forward by ESRC, MRC and Wellcome.

Data sharing principles

The Programme Board discussed current data sharing principles of ESRC, MRC and Wellcome. Although there are fundamentally no significant differences in the three funder policies' intent, they differ in their implementation and the extent to which data sharing and management questions are detailed. The Programme Board agreed that the impact of PRUK would be significantly enhanced if there could be further alignment in LPS data sharing and management approaches.

PRUK design and model

The Programme Board considered HDR UK's recommendations on the design and function of PRUK, which had been prior discussed with the PRUK Partnership Group. These included metadata and discovery requirements, streamlining data access processes, and the requirements for secure/trusted research environments (TREs) to facilitate data sharing. The Programme Board endorsed a model where PRUK facilitated and promoted data sharing using trusted research environments (TREs), and that improving access to data (reducing time or complexity) would be a key success factor for PRUK.

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The Programme Board discussed different models for involving LPS in PRUK. It was acknowledged that some studies might require additional resources to fulfil any data standards or activities developed by PRUK. The Programme Board noted that there was an opportunity for PRUK to engage new COVID-19 longitudinal studies funded over the last year, and reconfirmed that the remit of PRUK included UK studies that were not funded by ESRC, MRC or Wellcome.

It was noted that the consultation had identified the need for both researcher training and user support.

These recommendations will be developed further and incorporated into the forthcoming Green Paper consultation paper.

Next Programme Board meeting – 5 May